GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1241
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
COOKED MID-DAY MEAL SCHEME
RAMJI MANJHI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 3 kg. of nutritious and wholesome cooked meal/ processed food having a calorific value equivalent to 100 gms. of wheat/rice was to be distributed to those students who had minimum attendance of 80 per cent during the month and the scheme was to be overseen by village panchayats;

(b) if so, whether the food was distributed to such children in primary classes in Government, local bodies and Government aided schools; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a): Yes Sir. Under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE) popularly called Mid- day Meal Scheme food-grains (wheat/rice) are being distributed free of cost by the Central Government @ 100 gram per child per school day where cooked/processed hot meal is being served and @ 3 kgs. per student per month where food-grains are being distributed, subject to a minimum attendance of 80% by the students, to the children studying in primary classes in Government, Government-aided and local body schools. The scheme provides for a multiplayer supervision and monitoring mechanism, which includes Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and Villages Education Committees set up by local bodies/ authorities.

(b)&(c): As per the available information, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andman & Nicobar Islands and Pondicherry are providing cooked food. In Madhya Pradesh, cooked meals are being served to children in 89 tribal blocks. In Orissa, cooked meals are provided in 8 KBK districts (Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Navarngpur, Nuapada, Raigada & Sonepur) and 74 ITDA blocks of non KBK districts. Karnataka is providing meals in Belari, Bidar, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Gulbarga, Kopala & Raichur districts while cooked meals are being provided through an NGO called ISKCON to about 6000 children of Bangalore rural districts. Ready-to-eat food is being distributed in Delhi and Rajasthan.

The Central Government has urged States/UTs which are currently providing dry rations to shift to providinga cooked meal. However, some of the States/UTs are still distributing dry rations. Financial constraints have been cited as the main reason by States in this regard.